

# Mission Divyastra: What Agni-5 Missile With MIRV Tech Can Do



**New Delhi(KCN):** India successfully conducted the first flight test of Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV) with the Agni-5 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful test of the MIRV technology which was in development for several years, putting India on an elite list of nations that have the capability. "Proud of DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile

with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology." Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on X. A woman DRDO scientist was the mission lead and several women scientists played a significant role in the mission, sources said.

Scientists at DRDO have been working on the Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV) technology for many years. The technology allows a single missile like the Agni-5 to carry multiple warheads and target independently.

target multiple locations. The system developed by DRDO is equipped with indigenous Avionics systems and high-accuracy sensor packages, which ensured that the re-entry vehicles reached the target points within the desired accuracy, sources said. Agni-5 is an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) that goes into space before re-entering the atmosphere. With the MIRV technology, multiple targets located at different locations can be engaged from the same missile with several warheads. These warheads could be nuclear or non-nuclear. The technology allows a missile to carry several bombs. These bombs can target locations that can be several hundred kilometres apart. Some MIRVed missiles can even hit targets separated by a distance of 1,500 kilometres.

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The government on Monday evening issued a notification for the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act, or CAA, which is set to be implemented just weeks before the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The CAA - which makes religion, for the first time, a test of Indian citizenship, and sparked fears it could be used to target religious minorities - was cleared by Parliament in December 2019 amid violent protests nationwide, in which over 100 people died, and fierce resistance from activists and opposition politicians. Now that the notification has been issued, the central government can grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants - from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan - who came to India before December 31, 2014.

A spokesperson for the Home Ministry said eligible individuals could submit applications in "a completely online mode". No other documentation will be sought from the applicants, one official said.

Implementation of the CAA was a major campaign platform for the BJP before the 2019 election.

And this notification comes less than a month after Home Minister Amit Shah called the CAA "an act of the country" and said, "it will definitely be notified. CAA will come into effect before the election..."

The Home Minister - who led the government's charge on this topic in both houses of Parliament - also played down fears the CAA, and the NRC, or National Register of Citizens, will be used to target Muslims.

He accused Bengal Chief



Minister Mamata Banerjee - who has long been one of the CAA's fiercest and most vocal critics - of deliberately misleading the people of her state on this topic. Bengal - with 42 Lok Sabha seats - is shaping to be a key battleground for the BJP as it bids to reach its target of 370. Meanwhile, Ms Banerjee hit out almost immediately, telling reporters at a hastily-convened press conference that her government would steadfastly oppose

"anything that discriminates (against) people".  
"If there is any discrimination, we won't accept it. Be it religion, caste, or linguistic. They won't be able to give citizenship to anyone in two days. This is just lollipop and show-off," she declared.  
"After multiple extensions in four years, its implementation two to three days before the election announcement shows that it is being done for political reasons," she slammed

the BJP. The Trinamool boss also pointed out the CAA, the NRC, and the NPR, or National Population Register, were sensitive topics in Bengal and the northeast, and that she does not want unrest before the election. She also accused the BJP of raking up the CAA issue with an eye on votes. "With elections approaching, BJP has again raked up CAA to reap political benefits. But as long as I am alive, I will not allow it..." In the northeast - which saw violent clashes between anti-CAA protesters and the police - the Assam Students Union, which led protests in the state four years ago, has sounded the call for another agitation. Ms Banerjee isn't the only opposition politician to fight against the CAA.

## Odisha: Election Observers Undergo Training By ECI For Upcoming General Election 2024

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** An important meeting-cum-training session of the election observers was held by the Election Commission of India to conduct the upcoming General Election 2024 process in a free, fair and impartial manner. Different election observers from Odisha participated in the meeting at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer through a virtual medium. All these observers to be deployed in the upcoming general elections of 2024 were trained by the Election Commission of India on all aspects of the electoral process. The important role observers



will play in the election process was discussed in detail. The different challenges that would be faced by the election observers at the grass root level during the poll were dealt with in detail too. There was a discussion on how they

would bring all those matters to the attention of the Commission as per the rules. In the final phase of the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner Sri Rajeev Kumar addressed all the election observers. Discussing a free, fair,

impartial and error-free election process the Chief Election Commissioner emphasized the critical role of election observers in the process. The CEC touched upon subjects like the EVM, VVPAT, pooling booth, postal

ballot, law and order situations and many other poll-related issues. The CEC opined, "Indian democracy is the largest democracy in the world and free, fair and impartial elections are the strength of Indian democracy. The world is watching the election process. With a sense of this, all the observers are expected to perform their duties with utmost responsibility. The meeting was attended by Chief Electoral Officer Sri Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. N. Tirumala Naik, Sri Satrugghna Kar, Sri Mihir Mohanty and various election observers from the state.

# Odisha CM Naveen Hikes Meeting Fees Of Mission Shakti Members

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced an increase in the meeting fees of Gram Panchayat and Block-level Federation workers under the Mission Shakti programme of the state. Mission Shakti has become a huge movement in the state and has played an important role in the economic and social empowerment of women. Various village-level and block-level federations have played an important role in this. These federations have a special role to play in implementing the programmes of self-help groups. During the district visits of 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Karthik

Pandian, the workers of Mission Shakti Federation proposed to increase their remuneration in different areas. He discussed the issue with the Chief Minister following which Patnaik decided to increase the amount of their meeting fees. According to this decision, the meeting fee of the president of Gram Panchayat and block-level federation, secretary, and other working members has been increased by Rs 500. This increased fee will be applicable from October 2023 retroactively. The president and secretary of block-level federations will now get

Rs 4,500 per meeting, compared to Rs 4000 they were getting earlier. Similarly, its other working members will now get Rs 2,500 compared to Rs 2,000 they were getting earlier. Similarly, the president and secretary of village-level federations will get Rs 2,500 against Rs 2,500 for the meeting and other working members will get Rs 1,500 instead of Rs 1,000. This will cost the government Rs 249.21 crore per year. It is worth noting that there are a total of 676 block-level federation presidents and secretaries in the state, while the number of other members is 3042.

# CM Naveen Inaugurates, Lays Foundation For Various Developmental Projects In 5 Dists

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday inaugurated and laid foundation stones of various developmental projects in the five districts – Bolangir, Keonjhar, Khordha, Boudh and Cuttack. The projects that were inaugurated by the Chief Minister included the t r a n s f o r m e d Harishankar Temple in Balangir district, Odisha's longest flyover of 3km at Joda in Keonjhar district at the cost Rs 258.78 crore, 762m long railway over-bridge built for Rs 105 crore at Jatni Kudiari in Khordha district, Odisha's longest bridge of 3 km constructed for Rs 159.31 crore over river Mahanadi on Athmallik-Dhalpur

roadroad, 600 meter long bridge over Tel river for Rs 45.84 crore on Rakdor-Fasad road and bridge over river Mahanadi on Boudh-Marjakud link road for Rs 71.59 crore. Similarly, the projects for which foundation given by the Chief Minister were – the development work of Shri Shri Achyutananda Das Gadi, Nemala, Cuttack at a cost of Rs.25 crore, development of Maan Ugratara Shakti Pitha in Khordha district at the cost of Rs 32.14 crore, construction of 1738 meters long bridge over river Mahanadi on Baunsuni – Birmaharajpur link road connecting road in Boudh district. Speaking on the



occasion, the Chief Minister said that these projects implemented under the 5T initiative will play an important role in the development of tourism and

infrastructure. Harishankar is one of the major Pithas of Odisha. The transformation of this Pitha under the Integrated

Development of Heritage and Monuments and Tourist Destination plan will be successful in providing better services to the travellers and will also

play an important role in the economic development of the residents. He further said that culture is the identity of a nation. Its preservation

is the moral responsibility of all of us. The foundation stone was laid today for the transformation of Shri Shri Achyutananda Gadi in the Cuttack district and Maa Ugratara Shakti Pitha in the Khordha district. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the development of these great Pithas will further strengthen the emotional bond of the Odias.

Inaugurating the state's largest flyover at Joda in Keonjhar, the railway over-bridge at Jatni, the high-level bridge over Tel River, Marjakud Road High-Level Bridge and the largest bridge on Atthamalik-Dhalpur road, the Chief Minister said that these projects

will further strengthen our communication system and reduce travel time. All these projects will benefit millions of people. Stating that communication is the basis of prosperity, the 5T initiative has brought a massive transformation in infrastructure development in the state today and said that it has widened the path of development, the Chief Minister said.

5T & Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian has coordinated the programme. Ministers Pradip Kumar Amat, Prafulla Kumar Mallik and MLAs have attended the programme at various places.



# IG Drones Signs MoU with IIM Sambalpur to Launch Drone Center of Excellence

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** IG Drones, India's leading Drone Tech and Analytics company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the prestigious Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur for collaborative work in advanced applications of drone technology in Business Analytics, Management Strategies, and Public Policy. The landmark agreement was formalized during the 100-Cube Start-up Conclave at IIM Sambalpur, supported by the Ministry of Education. The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Education, Skill

Development, and Entrepreneurship Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. With this latest development, IG Drones has become the first company to sign a MoU with an IIM. Under the agreement, IG Drones will launch a drone centre of excellence at IIM Sambalpur, Delhi Campus. This center will serve as a hub for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the drone technology space. The MOU will focus on the advanced applications of drone technology in Business Analytics, Management Strategies, and Public

Policy. IG Drones is an Odisha-based drone tech company doing great nationally and globally. The IIM Sambalpur association will further enhance the company's role in promoting drone technology as an area of expertise and innovation for the Indian youth. The company is poised to leverage this collaboration to further its mission of advancing drone technology and its applications. Mr. Dr. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director IIM Sambalpur, said, "We are glad to sign an MOU and partner with the leading drone technology



company, IG Drones, for advanced applications of drone technology in business analytics, management strategies, and public policy governance. It has been at the forefront of taking steps to become one of the leading IIMs in India. Commenting on the

collaboration, Mr. B o d h i s a t t w a Sanghapriya, Founder and CEO of IG Drones said, "We are thrilled to partner with IIM Sambalpur in this groundbreaking initiative. This MoU is a testament to our commitment to driving innovation and

fostering advancement in the drone technology sector by partnering with leading IIM in India. We believe that this partnership will not only benefit our company but also contribute to the growth and development of the drone ecosystem in India."

The MoU between IG Drones and IIM Sambalpur represents a significant step forward in the advancement of drone technology and entrepreneurship in India. Both entities are committed to leveraging this collaboration to drive innovation, create new opportunities, and contribute to the country's economic growth. In addition to this, IG Drones has established over 15 Centers of Excellence across India and aim to build 1000 such Centre of Excellence to empower the youth of India with advanced drone technology. The company

has strategically collaborated with multiple state governments, more than 100 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and leading Multinational Corporations (MNCs) to offer a comprehensive range of drone-related services. 100-Cube Start-up Conclave is a startup initiative, facilitated by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in collaboration with IIM Sambalpur. It endeavours to establish 100 startups on its premises, each with an approximate valuation of Rs 100 crore by Odisha's centennial celebration in 2036.

## Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar hosts Seminar on Climate Change



**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** The Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Eco hosted a Rotary District Seminar titled "Climate Change - Local and Global" on March 10, 2024, at the Image Auditorium in Bhubaneswar. Chief Guest Sri Upendra Tripathy, Founder Director General of the International Solar Alliance, outlined India's path towards achieving the 100GW solar power target within a remarkably short timeframe. Keynote Speaker Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki, IIT Bombay affectionately known as the Solar

Gandhi, shared the mantra of AMG: Avoid wasteful activity, Minimize energy consumption, and Generate energy locally. District Governor of Rotary Jayashree Mohanty envisioned transforming Rotary District 3262 into the first net-zero carbon emission District of the Rotary world. Among others, District Environment Chair PDG Sibabrata Dash, Club President Sunanda Mitra, Secretary Ashok Panda, Director Environment Pramod Panda, and Chair Public Image Tushar Sahu

spoke on the occasion. A special issue of the Club newsletter "Eco Echo" focusing on Climate Change was released on the occasion. Odisha's climate champions, Dr. Sudhir Rout, Satyabrata Samal, and Dr. Biswajeet Panda, shared their exciting journeys, elaborating on the imperative of grassroots activism in mitigating ecological challenges. The seminar celebrated the ingenuity of seven leading startups from Odisha, namely Subham Bio CNG, Purelectron, ThinkRaw India, Stytt, Ecokart, MG Green, and

Roomonwheel.com, lauding their entrepreneurial endeavors aimed at addressing environmental concerns. GAIL India was recognised for its impactful CSR initiatives in Odisha, underscoring its commitment to sustainable development. This event fostered dialogue, innovation, and collaboration, serving as a catalyst for transformative action in the realm of environmental sustainability. The event was generously supported by GAIL, OPGC, SBI, Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Utkarsh Small Finance, Annapurna Finance, SOCH and Janakalyan. Over 200 participants from diverse sectors, including Rotarians, bankers, academicians, and students participated in the event.

## Odisha To Impart Skill Training To PwDs For Employment In Hotel & Hospitality Sector



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The State Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Department has taken the initiative to impart skill training for hearing-impaired youths in the hospitality sector. About 150 youths in 5 batches will be trained through the Institute of

Hotel Management and Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition. The institute, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism, GoI will provide necessary skill training for the purpose, as envisaged in an MoU signed between the Institute and the

Department. SSEPD Department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said that necessary skill training for PwDs will open more vistas for gainful employment in the Hotel and Hospitality Sector. "The State Government gives importance to creating

more employment opportunities among PwDs," he said. In the presence of senior officers of the Department, Dilip Kumar Ray, Special Secretary and Smt. Sharada Ghosh, the Principal were signatories on behalf of the Department and the Institute respectively.

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# Educations Without Character Dangerous

Dr. Arundhati Devi



While focusing attention in the present day system of education and objective, we see hundreds of schools, colleges and universities flooding the country with proud propagation of their multifarious merits and benefits. The Government runs free school providing free uniforms both even mid-day meals with a view to abolishing illiteracy and to educate every one in the country. Compared to schools and colleges of the past, modern technology, techniques, facilities, infrastructure etc. in the field have no doubt been improved and many. Come out with flying cloud and adorning high offices with fabulous packages. Will all these advancement we parade on our achievement and

harangued proudly on publish platforms.

But we forget to take into account the very purpose and object of education. The education that is imparted at schools and colleges primarily aims at career making not learning which makes a lop sided developments. The primary purpose of education is defeated as such we see only money making machines, not humans.

Hence it is high time to aware ourselves as to what education really means. It would be quite appropriate to quote Bhagaban Sri Sathya Sai Baba "Educations without character, service without humanity, Commerce without morality and politics without principle are not only useless but positively dangerous." While saying education without character it objectively pinpoints that, education is intimately associated with character. Does our system reflect any trait of character? No. An emphatic no becoming literate in a particular stream of education and grabing a



lucrative job are not the be all and end all of education. Even a man can be educated without literacy. Education and literacy are roles apart in their inherent aspects. Education should aim at character building developing human values, up holding cultural and Spiritual grandeur shaping our behavioural pattern, with an eye on the five golden rules that adorn the Divine emblem of Bhagaban like Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahinsa. We find many so called educated people indulging themselves in most nefarious activities which a truly educated

man can never dream of.

Money making education and value based education are not one and the same. Money making education simply aims at making money either by fair or foul means. It is blind to human values, even human traits. Such educated people are simply human in form but sub-human in character. That is why Bhagaban Baba integrates education with character. It is therefore time to follow value based education to call yourself a man. I am again reminded of an oft quoted saying, "If money is lost and if character is lost, every

things lost. Hence students should guard their character with utmost care and caution. The value based education which the society had embraced in the past, was held high in esteem and appreciation simply because it aimed at laying down foundation to build human beings in its true spirit and aspiration. Besides being a good student, one has to be a good man. Mugging up lessons and vomiting them out on the answer papers mistakenly does not make a man.

Hence the primary purpose of education is to carve out beautiful images from the

hard rock and to infuse life in to them with all divine qualities like manliness humility, truthfulness, honesty, sympathy, love, fearlessness, compassion, polite behaviour and so on. It is relevant to say that a school of Bhagawan Baba is altogether different from ordinary school. Those who had the good fortune of visiting Puttaparthi, must have come across students right from K.G to P.G. either in road, on the bus or train even on their way to prayer hall. One can find a striking difference in comparison to students of other educational institutions.

Such fragrance expected from students of all schools and colleges of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation where may it be located. It is only possible with sincere efforts of Teacher, parents devotees and prayer at the Lotus feet Bhagawan Baba.

**Director & Secretary, International Indecency Prevention Movement, Odisha, Cuttack, Mob. : 9937172810**

## Mahashivratri : Moksha, Salvation, And Enlightenment

Alekh Chandra Samal



Mahashivratri, the great night of Lord Shiva, is one of the holiest days of the Hindu calendar. It falls on the new moon day in the month of Maagha, and is dedicated and celebrated in honour of the beloved Hindu deity, the destroyer, Lord Shiva. It is a festival of great importance because of its

religious and spiritual implications. It is believed that no prayer goes unanswered on this sacred day and those who pray to Lord Shiva with the utmost devotion on Mahashivratri are absolved of their sins and attain Moksha, Salvation, and Enlightenment.

Different mythical shivaratri stories are associated with Maha Shivaratri. According to a popular legend, Mahashivratri is the night when Lord Shiva performs the cosmic dance of creation, preservation and destruction. Hence, Mahashivratri is marked by annual dance festivals at major Hindu temples Konark, Khajuraho, Pattadakal, Modhera and Chidambaram. Lord Shiva's dances, Tandava and Lasya, are also performed by classical dancers in veneration of Shiva.

Another Maha Shivaratri story identifies Mahashivratri as the night of Lord Shiva's wedding to Goddess Parvati. Yet another popular belief associates Mahashivaratri with the legend of Lord Shiva drinking poison to save the universe. A pot of poison was amongst the many things discovered during the churning of the ocean (the legendary Sagar Manthan). Lord Shiva drank the poison to save the universe from its ill effects. Gods danced in order to protect Shiva from the harmful effect of the poison and to keep him awake for a night. The poison eventually didn't harm Shiva, but it turned his neck blue, which also explains why Lord Shiva is called Neelkanth.

The festival of Mahashivratri is celebrated with grandeur, devotion and love. It is regarded as a day of gratitude, a day of thanksgiving to Lord Shiva for His kindness and blessings. It is looked upon as a day when all devotees, believers and seekers can express their Bhakti to Lord Shiva and seek His grace to spiritually guide them to the truth of Shivoham, self-realisation, and God realisation.

Legends apart, Mahashivratri celebrations are of tremendous significance since this festival is considered to be a powerful time for prayers and prayer fulfillment, spiritual awakening and realisation. Whether one seeks worldly happiness or spiritual wisdom, Mahashivratri is considered as an auspicious day to seek the blessings of God!

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# Summer Routine & Ayurveda

Dr. Bichitra Nanda Acharya



Summer is the hottest of the four temperate seasons, falling between spring and autumn. At the summer solstice, the days are longest and the nights are shortest, with day-length decreasing as the season progresses after the solstice. See in this slideshow How to have fun in the sun—and keep your the pitta in check with this life-giving summer routine.

Some of the best pitta-pacifying foods are leafy greens, coconut, cucumber, cantaloupe, and watermelon. Garnish salads and other dishes with cooling cilantro, parsley, and alfalfa sprouts, and avoid hot drinks, spicy food, alcohol, caffeine, and chilies. Do not skip food. Do not do fasting.

Summer's intense heat saps moisture from plants, the earth, and our bodies.

That's why it's okay to add an extra pinch of salt in your food in the summer to compensate for sweating and to prevent fatigue. Also, drink at least six 8-ounce cups of water per day. You should protect yourself from the sun and refrain from outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day. To protect yourself from sunburns use a good sunscreen. Use Cucumber Water to hydrate the skin and experience a cooling effect when you face the scorching heat of summer. Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from the harsh rays of the sun. Stress and overwork aggravates the symptoms and overheating effects of summer. Working on deadline-oriented activities, lack of time for oneself, work pressure, and long commutes are more stressful during the heat of summer. You should plan out your work and learn some time management tips to complete your tasks on time, so that you can spend enough time with your family and friends.

Learn to balance work with leisure. Enjoy

fun and leisurely activities in weekends and take some time to enjoy and appreciate life. Plan a vacation to a cool and serene hill station. Devote some time to meditation to relax your mind and keep stress at bay. Swimming is a healthy and wonderful exercise for summer - it's not only cooling and soothing for the body but also helps in toning and strengthening body muscles. Morning walks in the park and evening strolls are both relaxing for the body and mind during this season. Also, in Ayurveda, Shitli Pranayama is recommended for instilling coolness, brightness and peacefulness in the body and mind.

Fresh fruit juices and nectars, blended and stored at room temperature, are recommended. Grape juice, water melon shakes, lassi, bel sharbat and aam panna are refreshing and healthy choices in summer. You should also drink a lot of cool pure water to replenish body moisture lost to heat during summer.

A cooling bath is the best way to start a 'cool' day. This is the first thing that you do in the morning, so make the best of it. Bathe with cold water. Take fresh or dried leaves of mint and boil for half an hour. Strain the liquid and let it cool down. After taking your bath, apply this liquid on your entire body, especially those parts where you experience more perspiration. Mint has cooling, refreshing and astringent effects on the skin and is also helpful in relaxing your mind. After showering, mix one teaspoon each of organic, unrefined coconut oil and castor oil in a glass bottle with a cap. Place the bottle in hot water until the oil is lukewarm (not hot!). Apply to your whole body to keep your skin supple, soft, and cool. You can also use this treatment before you swim to protect your skin from salt water or chlorine.

You can go to bed a little later on summer nights, around 11 p.m. when some of the sun's heat has dissipated. Sleep on your right side to open your left nostril, which corresponds to the ida

nadi, the subtle energy channel that corresponds to the cooling moon. Dab one drop of sandalwood essential oil on your temples, eyebrow center, throat center (at the hollow of the throat), wrists, and belly button. According to subtle ayurvedic principles, your whole aura will be charged with a sweet fragrance that pacifies pitta. Rub preservative-free aloe gel on your skin. Or juice a few ounces of fresh cilantro and drink two teaspoons three times a day. Apply the cilantro pulp to your sunburn; it's cooling and soothing. Use an umbrella while going outside. Wear clothes that are made of natural materials like cotton or silk. Opt for clothing in pastel colours like white, cream, light green, light blue or blends found in nature and not colours, which are very bright, glaring and shocking to the eyes. This is because light colours absorb less heat. Wear clean clothes after bath.

Avoid applying make-up. If you do apply, do so sparingly and completely remove it at bedtime. Apply face

packs made of watermelon puree, cucumber, orange peel powder, banana or papaya pulp mixed with honey, milk cream or rosewater.

Use sandalwood, neem, turmeric and aloe vera to enhance skin tone and keep the skin free from premature wrinkles and pigmentations. Don't give up exercise. However, opt for doing light yoga asanas [postures neither too complicated nor strenuous] instead of heavy weights. Alternatively, you can go for walks or pursue any other outdoor activity [swimming or other water sports], or simply spend some time near a water source early morning—it will refresh your mind and give you immense health benefits. Take moonlight walks in the evening. It will be both relaxing and soothing for the mind and body. Listen to soothing sounds of water. ....om om om.

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## FIBROIDS IN PREGNANCY

Dr. Kanti Nayak



Gynaecologists in the past used to be concerned that a fibroid may grow quickly due to the rising oestrogen level in pregnancy and cause major problems. Recent medical research has shown that most fibroids do not actually become larger during pregnancy, and those that do often return to their prepregnancy size afterwards.

However, there are several ways that a fibroid may affect a pregnancy. A uterine fibroid can cause uncomfortable feelings of discomfort, pressure, heaviness or even pain if they grow larger and press on surrounding organs or pelvic structures. A fibroid may lead to sharp pain in the lower back (lumbar region) and legs if there is pressure on a nerve.

Red degeneration of a fibroid in pregnancy is a rare complication of a fibroid during pregnancy. This problem is known medically as carneous degeneration. If red or carneous degeneration occurs there is haemorrhage within the centre of the fibroid. This usually happens in the middle trimester of pregnancy and is thought to result from the leiomyoma growing rapidly and outgrowing its blood supply. Red degeneration can be very painful, with severe lower abdominal pain, usually requires treatment with strong painkillers, but nearly always settles down without causing serious problems or needing specific treatment.

With regard to falling pregnant, fibroids are thought to account for about two to three percent of all infertility problems. If a fibroid or fibroids develop just under the endometrium this may affect the way in which a fertilised egg attaches or implants in the endometrium of the womb. A fibroid therefore, may cause recurrent early miscarriage, which is often so early that a woman is not even aware that she has been pregnant.

More rarely a fibroid may obstruct the canal of the cervix or the opening of the fallopian tubes into the womb. Sometimes later in pregnancy, fibroids may also disrupt the normal development and growth of the uterus, leading to premature labour and childbirth. Extremely rarely, fibroids may lead to a miscarriage before 23 weeks of pregnancy.

Even though they are becoming more common, the exact nature and reasons for leiomyomas causing infertility and problems when a woman is pregnant are not fully understood.

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# India's SDG Progress: Challenges and Achievements



India's standing on the global development stage has recently been assessed through the Centre for Science Environment's (CSE) State of India Environment 2024 (SoE'24) index. Unveiled by Sunita Narain, CSE's director general, and Nitin Desai, former UN under-secretary general, at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2024 in Nimli, Rajasthan, the index places India at the 112th position among 166 nations with a score of 63.4 out of 100 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on the Sustainable Development Report 2023 by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, this report highlights areas where India faces challenges, including 'zero hunger,' 'good health and well-being,' and 'clean water and sanitation.'

India's performance in 'reduced inequalities'

and 'life on land or biodiversity' goals has been less than satisfactory. However, there is a silver lining as India has shown improvement in the 'no poverty' and 'responsible consumption and production' sectors compared to the previous year. Despite this, India finds itself trailing behind five South Asian countries in 2023, including Bhutan (61), Maldives (68), Sri Lanka (83), Nepal (99), and Bangladesh (101). Pakistan (128) and Afghanistan (158) are the only countries ranking lower than India in the region. Over the past five years, India's rank in sustainable development has fallen by nine places, indicating a concerning trend.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 global objectives established by the United Nations, outline the path to address the world's most pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. These goals encompass poverty eradication, sustainable development promotion, and ensuring a better future for all. The SDGs provide a comprehensive

framework for countries to commit to targeted actions, policies, and international cooperation to achieve these goals by 2030. In India, these goals serve as a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable development, and significant strides have been made in various areas supported with the SDGs.

Efforts to reduce poverty have resulted in a decline in the poverty rate, and access to education has improved, achieving near-universal primary school enrolment. Maternal and child health indicators have shown improvement, and access to clean water and sanitation facilities has increased, contributing to an enhanced quality of life. India's commitment to the SDGs is evident through policy initiatives, partnerships, and data-driven approaches to track progress and accelerate efforts.

Social capital, the networks, relationships, and norms fostering cooperation and collective action, have played a crucial role in India's success in achieving the SDGs. It has enabled communities to unite, share resources, and work

towards common goals. Social capital has facilitated the implementation of development programs, enhanced community participation, and promoted inclusive decision-making processes. By leveraging social capital, India can continue to harness collective efforts to address challenges and effectively achieve the SDGs.

Some notable achievements in various SDGs include a significant reduction in the poverty rate, improvements in maternal and child health indicators, near-universal primary school enrolment, and increased access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

Despite these accomplishments, India must address the identified challenges and work towards further improvements. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a roadmap for continued progress. India's commitment to sustainable development will be instrumental in achieving a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world for present and future

generations.

Social capital has emerged as a linchpin in India's journey toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pivotal in driving collaborative efforts, community engagement, and inclusive development. This intangible resource, encompassing networks, relationships, and shared norms within communities, has significantly contributed to the nation's progress across various SDGs.

In pursuing Goal 1: No Poverty, India has witnessed substantial poverty reduction, thanks to the influence of social capital. Community-driven initiatives, self-help groups, and microfinance networks have provided financial assistance, skills training, and entrepreneurship opportunities to marginalized populations, empowering them to uplift themselves economically.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger has seen noteworthy progress in India, partly driven by social capital. Community-based organizations, farmers' cooperatives, and knowledge-sharing networks have been established to promote sustainable agriculture, improve access to nutritious food, and

enhance overall food security. This collaborative approach has been crucial in addressing hunger and malnutrition.

India's strides in Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being are marked by the active role of social capital. Community health workers, volunteers, and support networks have played a vital part in providing healthcare services, raising awareness, and facilitating access to healthcare facilities, particularly in remote and underserved areas. This approach has contributed to improved health outcomes.

For Goal 4: Quality Education, social capital has been a driving force behind India's efforts to enhance access to education. Community involvement, support for education initiatives, and partnerships between educational institutions, local communities, and NGOs have been fostered. This collaboration aims to improve infrastructure, teacher training, and educational outcomes.

Empowering women and promoting gender equality, as per Goal 5, have been priorities for India. Social capital has played a role in fostering

women's self-help groups, promoting financial inclusion, providing vocational training, and creating platforms for women's voices. This has led to increased economic empowerment and progress toward gender parity.

In pursuing Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, India has focused on creating sustainable and inclusive urban environments. Social capital has facilitated citizen engagement, participatory planning processes, and community-led initiatives in sustainable urban development, waste management, renewable energy, and improving access to essential services.

These examples highlight the integral role of social capital in mobilizing communities, fostering collaboration, and empowering individuals to participate actively in sustainable development efforts. By leveraging social capital effectively, India has addressed various dimensions of sustainable development, creating positive change at local and national levels.

However, challenges

persist as India continues its journey towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. Inadequate resources, limited capacity, social and economic inequalities, and systemic barriers still need to be overcome. Addressing interconnected issues like climate change, poverty, and gender inequality requires holistic and collaborative approaches. Social capital can serve as a catalyst, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and local ownership.

The government, civil society organizations, and stakeholders must continue collaborating and implementing initiatives. Through leveraging social capital, India can enhance social cohesion, inclusivity, resilience, and adaptive capacity within communities, thereby advancing more sustainable and inclusive development.

**\*Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

## BEING BAPTISED IN POLITICAL DELINQUENCY AND INSENSITIVITY

M.R.LALU



When political rivalries convert college campuses into hotspots of crime and criminal behavior, education takes a back seat. There has always been an epidemic of crime spreading exponentially in college campuses across the state of Kerala and I personally could witness many. It was on 17 September 1996, the state witnessed one of the most heart-wrenching campus brutalities carried out by a mainstream political party. In an attempt to silence political rivalry, three young boys from the BJP's students wing ABVP were brutally chased and killed by students from the same college and goons from outside the campus that belonged to the left parties. This heinous incident had taken place in the Devaswom Board College in Parumala. When being chased and tortured by

a violent mob from the Students Federation of India (SFI), the students' wing of the CPI (M), the three jumped into River Pampa. The idea was to swim across the river and escape. But the barbarous goons began to pelt stones from the riverbed critically injuring the boys in water and they had drowned. The local women who were busy washing clothes tried to rope out the hapless boys with their clothes. But they were chased away by the wanton brutes and all the three died in the river. Campus politics has always been a parallel track played in tune with the dictums of parties that ruled the state. Most of the students gain merit for representing the ruling party and they are given a free hand by the police when chaotic skirmishes take place. There have been plenty of instances in which lives have been lost and many students have become victims of political insanity. The Kannur district of the state deserves a special reference here as it remained the most acrimonious landscape

for the state politics where rivalries between the BJP and CPI (M) destroyed a number of families. Both parties have had consistent efforts to steer their presence in this district which is in the Malabar region. Situation became turbulent when the traditional stronghold of the CPI (M) had shatteringly faced a systematic ideological invasion from the BJP and the Sangh Parivar. This had absolutely been leading the entire region to break into a huge political turmoil that gained notoriety for decades. Hundreds of party workers got butchered by the violence unleashed by the parties. Many people died and many families perished. This narration was necessary here to elaborate the quantum of political acrimony prevailed among parties in the state. But the present scenario turned this traditional enmity and acrimony more inhuman. Campuses are no more centers of learning. Across the state they have now been turning into breeding grounds of goons. With the

uninterrupted supply of drugs and being baptized in ruthless political indoctrination, a huge number of students have gone directionless. Kerala's universities have long been witness to violence and spine chilling horror of student politics. With the latest brutality of political indoctrination, the foot soldiers of Students Federation of India (SFI) have managed to kill J S Sidharthan, a 20 year old second-year student of veterinary college, Pookot, Wayanad, under the Kerala University. The punishment executed on the young boy by the brutal gang was beyond comparison and narration. It is reported that he was stripped naked and beaten up with belts and cable wires by his classmates and seniors in front of other students. His close friends were threatened and forced to beat him up when the show of cruelty was performed in broad daylight. The probe found the involvement of almost 31 students. This heartbreaking trial-cum-torture

continued for almost three days leading the boy to commit suicide. His body was later found hanging lifeless in the hostel. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has suspended the Vice-Chancellor of the university ordering a judicial enquiry. Now, there is a crucial question that began to distressingly prick the conscience of the people of the state. That why was the entire population of students and staff in the hostel silent on the inhuman torture of the boy? Why was the management of the college tight-lipped on violence inside its premises? This insensitivity indicates the depth of fear on this horribly rampant criminality that has been controlling the campus; it also finger-points at the failure of the education system. Evidently, the ruling class has been applying its political power to cripple the system with its notorious interference and the administration in universities and colleges have silently been forced to remain servile to their political masters. There has been a huge wave of violence infiltrating into

the campuses with political groups and radicalized religious groups getting consistently active among students. Should this incident be seen as a usual occurrence of ragging breaking all extremes of brutality or was there a terrible mindset emanating from the vacuum of organizations that the Government of India has recently banned? Could they successfully stretch their ugly claws into colleges and universities by systematically intruding into political parties? What was the real intent of the crime that the goons perpetuated on a hapless boy? Was this criminal justice system executed by the students motivated by the brutal depiction of cruelty being carried out by the Taliban or other outfits working in countries where the atmosphere is warm and fertile for barbarity? Violent means of murders in the state, especially among the youth, should have shaken the society long before, but there seems a lack of urgency and lethargy again and again dominating its value system. Trimming the aspirations of a state

that once remained an excellent hub for quality education, its political system has certainly pushed it through the tunnel of hatred and inhuman retribution. Schools and colleges have lost their lessons of empathy and the value system that we cherished once got deeply dispelled. The state of Kerala has lost its sheen of being one of the most empathetic societies. Often being applauded for its socio-political awareness and excellent performance in various socio-economic indices, Kerala has maintained its status of being a good example for the rest of the country. But its terrible failure and inability to understand the need of maintaining values that would nurture its existence as a society is a reality. Irrespective of it being a society with good living standards, the state has grown into an insensitive terrain for moral values. With bigoted cries for free speech and scientific thinking being heard louder; the campuses in the state have lost the essence of a learning atmosphere well knit with compassion,

tolerance and mutual acceptance. Overwhelmingly misguided by different political ideologies, religious radicalization and social media, young minds in the state have lost their purpose. Political parties being purposefully partial and supportive of regimentation in the society have further deepened the malaise. Mostly, the crisis was the artificial creation of the ruling class that kept dismantling the minds of young generations by viciously squandering their imaginations of progress. The crisis is deep as the malice is emerging thicker threatening the existence of the state. At this juncture, how sincere and action oriented is the government? Let us grieve for Sidharthan, with this question reverberating in our minds repeatedly.

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The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu accorded ceremonial welcome and also Guard of Honour upon her arrival at Port Louis Airport, in Mauritius

## Poll Body Chief On 3-Day J&K Visit To Review Lok Sabha Polls Preparations

**Srinagar(KCN):** Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit to review preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The general elections are likely to be held in April-May. No formal engagements are scheduled for the Election Commission team consisting of Kumar and nine other EC officials for Monday, officials said. The team will hold detailed meetings with civil administration and police officials on Tuesday as part of the review process, they

added. The EC officials are also scheduled to meet representatives of political parties during the visit. They will hold similar interactions in Jammu on Wednesday, the officials said, adding they are also likely to interact with the media there. There has been a growing demand from political quarters in Jammu and Kashmir that the Election Commission should hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls or immediately after the general elections. Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Ghulam Nabi Azad have

raised this demand in the past two weeks. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday held a meeting with the civil and police administration to sensitise them about the measures to be taken for the smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory. The chief secretary asserted that the administration's objective is to ensure free and fair elections with large-scale public participation. Dulloo impressed upon the divisional and the district administration to take all necessary measures to ensure that people do not face any hardships in exercising their democratic rights.

## Delhi Police Gets More Time From Court To Complete Parliament Security Breach Probe

**New Delhi(KCN):** A city court on Monday granted Delhi Police more time to complete its investigation in Parliament security breach case. Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur granted 45 more days to police to conclude the investigation, after the prosecution moved an application on their behalf, claiming certain reports were still awaited and scrutinising voluminous data will take time. The Delhi Police had



urged the judge to grant them three more months to complete the investigation. In a major security breach on the

anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, two people -- Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D -- jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by MPs. Around the same time, two other accused -- Amol Shinde and Azad -- also sprayed coloured gas from canisters while shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside Parliament premises.

## Supreme Court Shock Verdict On Child Pornography

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Supreme Court on Monday red-flagged a Madras High Court decision to not consider the downloading of child pornography as a crime. A bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud issued notice to the Tamil Nadu Police and the accused in this case. The Supreme Court was hearing a plea challenging the High Court's shocking January ruling - that downloading child pornography is not an offence under POCSCO, or Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, or the Information Technology Act since such actions were taken "in privacy

without affecting or influencing anyone else". "The moment an accused tries to circulate or distribute or publicly exhibit obscene photos and videos, then the ingredients of the offence starts kicking in..." the court said. The court reasoned that to qualify as an offence under POCSCO, and the IT Act, the accused had to have created, published, and transmitted the material. And with relation to the IT Act, it said the relevant section did not cover cases where an individual only downloaded and watched content, without doing more. The court



therefore quashed proceedings against a 28-year-old man who had been charged with downloading child pornographic content to his mobile phone. The High Court did, however, complain about children today "grappling" with the issue of watching pornography, declaring it could have

negative consequences years later. Also declaring the accused to have been "afflicted with this (watching pornography) addiction", the court advised counselling for a "healthy and happy future". In October last year, the central government sent notices to social media

platforms X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, and Telegram, warning they would lose legal immunity unless they act on this issue urgently. The platforms were asked to permanently remove, or disable access to, child pornography content. The centre's action followed reports that another social media platform - Instagram - is home to a vast network of such content being created and shared. A Wall Street Journal report said Instagram's algorithms linked and promoted this network of people seeking illegal sexual content and activity.

## 10 NDA, 3 SP Candidates File Nominations For UP Legislative Council Polls

**Lucknow(KCN):** Ten candidates of the NDA and three of SP on Monday filed their nomination papers here for the biennial elections to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. Monday is the last date for filing nomination papers for the MLC polls. The 10 NDA candidates, including seven from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), filed their nominations in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Those who filed the

nomination papers from the BJP include former ministers Mahendra Singh and Ashok Katariya, Vijay Bahadur Pathak (state BJP vice-president), Mohit Beniwal, Ram Tirath Singhal (former mayor of Jhansi) and Dharmendra Singh. Apart from these, Ashish Patel of Apna Dal (S), Yogesh Chaudhary of Rashtriya Lok Dal and Vichhelal of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) also submitted their nomination papers. Apart from the chief minister, his deputies



Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, state BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar also accompanied the NDA candidates during the nomination

filing. Adityanath later posted on X, "Hearty congratulations to all the NDA candidates who filed nomination today for the post of member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council! Best wishes to all of you for your victory!"

Samajwadi Party (SP) spokesperson Fakhruul Hasan said senior party leader Balram Yadav, former MLA Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali and Kiranpal Kashyap are the three candidates who filed their nomination papers from the party on Monday for the UP Legislative Council polls. After filing his nomination, Yadav told reporters that the SP has expressed confidence in him and made him a candidate for the Legislative Council polls.

## BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S 418TH ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN AT BDM INTERNATIONAL FOR THE LESSER PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

**Kolkata,(KCN):** BDM International, as a school and Madhumita Sengupta, as the socially responsible Principal, are known for their holistic approach, beyond academics, towards the benefit of not only their own students, but towards the lesser privileged children of our society too. That's where the frequencies of actor/activist/teacher of Method Acting Bobby Chakraborty and Madhumita Sengupta match. Bobby too has been vociferously spreading the awareness against addiction and harmful social trends among the youth, globally, through his widely acclaimed, free of cost, interactive session titled

'I am the king of my mind' for over a decade now. On March 9th, Bobby organised his 418th Anti Addiction Campaign and his 19th session at BDM International. The very fact that it was his 19th session proves the strong collaboration of this particular school and Bobby, as a changemaker of the society, beyond academics. This particular session of Bobby, was a part of RYLA( ROTARY Y O U T H L E A D E R S H I P AWARDS) 2024. It was a joint initiative between The Interact Club of B.D.M. International in association with 'Rotary-Calcutta Chowrenghee' and 'Serving Together', to



ideate a colourful, day long event, for the lesser privileged children of our society, titled 'Indradhanush'. Senior Teacher Sunanda Roy, who has been a strong supporter of

Bobby's awareness program for over a decade, along with other respected teachers, curated everything perfectly, with the guidance of their Principal

Madhumita Sengupta. This extremely necessary, life changing session of Bobby had 'Active Soldier', Shreyaan Banerjee, a wonder kid studying in class -6 at BDM

International, who is a former student of B. D. Memorial Junior School, participating in his 2nd AAC. He inspired and motivated every child and adult present in the auditorium with his

smartness and focus, to lead a healthy life, away from all sorts of addiction and harmful social trends. His teamwork with his skipper Bobby was hugely appreciated and won over everyone's heart present in the audience. Shreyaan was also the chief D.O.P. and was assisted by soldier Atif Molla, a student of class 9, from a village in Mallickpur. The super infotaining (information+entertainment) session of Bobby had a terrific participation from all the children, who had assembled there from various NGO run schools in West Bengal. The important title of the '1st soldier' was won by

Shreyaan and the surprise contest at the end had Washifa, Simmi and Ariyan as the winners, who along with Atif, were given special prizes and HCF (health career family) t-shirts by their beloved Bobby Dada. The memorable session ended with a thought provoking vote of thanks by The Principal Madhumita Sengupta and a cry in unison with Bobby and the students, along with the teachers, the mantra of a healthy life "I AM THE KING OF MY MIND". We highly appreciate this selfless initiative of Bobby and BDM International, to give these pertinent and all important life lessons to children, beyond their academic curriculum.



# Night Out @ Nandankanan

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, Susanta Nanda has a problem. He has endless innovations programs as to how to make Odisha Wildlife attractive. After his take over as Chief of Wildlife Organization of Odisha, several innovative initiatives have been ushered in. Shri Nanda, a true nature lover believes in educating all about wildlife and nature, which he does with all sincerity and devotion.

At the helm of Odisha Wildlife, Shri Nanda has initiated an innovative program with an aim to educate people especially students about the nightlife of wildlife animals. State Wildlife Organization has started Night Out at Zoo- an innovative educational program at Nandankanan Zoological Park today. This is an outstanding educational program in which participants can learn about wonderful night time adaptations of nocturnal animals when the forests and



their diverse inhabitants come to life, said Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, Susanta Nanda said. The program aims to educate the participants regarding

selected nocturnal animals from the animal collection of Nandankanan Zoological Park, he said. The educational program will be conducted only on Sundays and maximum

20 participants are allowed per day, Nanda informed. The Zoo authority will arrange Battery Operated Vehicles for participants, and no extra charges incurred in this regard. Online registration has

been started through the website of Nandankanan. (www.nandankanan.org). Registration fee for each participant is Rs 250. Registered participants need to report at 6.15 PM at Multi Level Car Parking Facility of Nandankanan Zoological Park. Program starts at 6.30 PM & ends at 8.00 PM, officials said. The participants need to show the online generated tickets at the time of entry. Parking facility for vehicle will be arranged at Multi Level Car Parking area

of Nandankanan (charges applicable). Further, participants will not be allowed to carry any bag/luggage with them during the programme. Participants are not allowed to bring their DSLR or Video recording instrument. Videography and photography are not allowed during the programme. Participants need to follow the instructions of the assisting Zoo education staff/volunteer strictly, the officials said. The Forest

Department has prepared a 20 year master plan for development of the Nandankanan Zoo. As part of the plan, the zoo area will get an expansion with the Chudanga and Krushnaprasad forest has been decided to be included in the development area. As a result, the total area of Nandankanan Zoo will be 1,043 hectares. There are proposals for upgradation, addition of new enclosures, and construction of a new safari in the master plan.

## Fitness Day At JSP



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), across its business locations, celebrated the Birthday of its Chairman Naveen Jindal on 9 March 9 as Fitness Day with a series of events and activities embracing the ethos of health and wellness. In its plant and mines locations at Angul, Barbil, Kasia, and Tensa, JSP organised various programmes for the employees and the local community to inspire individuals to prioritise health and fitness for success. JSP's pellet plant at Barbil organised a Mini Marathon 'Pellet Plant Stride' to mark the occasion. More than 300 employees and their

family members enthusiastically joined the programme. JSP Foundation, the Social Arm of Jindal Steel & Power, distributed spectacles among 87 individuals in the peripheral villages of Kasia Mines. The Foundation also provided hot and cooked meals to the residents of Kudurbada hamlet in Kasia (Kha) village. In Deojhar, more than 200 students were sensitised on the importance of exercise and sports for fitness. Two classrooms were also inaugurated at the Primary School, Gobardhanpur to promote quality education. In Angul, JSP observed the Birthday of its

Chairman Naveen Jindal organising mini-marathons, yoga camps and health camps in the villages and in the schools in the periphery. The occasion was specially observed with mirth and gaiety with Divyang Children in Jindal Asha, the underprivileged residents in Adruta Children Home, and in Utkal Balashram. As a special welfare support, JSP Foundation also provided water coolers, fans, indoor play materials, and fans to the inmates of the Angul Jail. At its Bhubaneswar office, JSP organised a yoga training session and a donation camp in collaboration with Kalinga Hospital.

Sweets were also distributed among more than 200 children with special needs. Addressing the employees, President Prashant Hota said, "Naveen Jindal's contribution to the Country will be ever cherished by the Gen Next. His contribution to industry-led inclusive prosperity in three Eastern States, his leadership in introducing coal gasification in steel-making, and the introduction of clean and green energy are benchmarks for other metal industries." Naveen Jindal's role as a parliamentarian in moving the private bill on food security and his lead in making the parliament smoking free are path breaking initiatives, he remarked. "As a polo player and a shooting champion, Shri Jindal has set several records. And his lone decade-long legal struggle for giving the Indian citizens to fly the national flag every day with dignity has made him a cherished national figure," he added.

## Debrigarh embracing eco-tourism for wider appeal

**Sambalpur(KCN):** With an influx of local and foreign tourists, the Debrigarh sanctuary and Hirakud reservoir have emerged as a tourism hotspot in recent years. With this greater tourist presence in view, the local administration has taken initiatives to promote eco-tourism in the region with the help of local communities. Among the initiatives, given increased leopard sightings during jungle safari and sightings of other wild animals all along the grasslands between Hirakud lake and Debrigarh, Hirakud wildlife division authorities, under supervision of Wildlife Organization, have upscaled 7 sqkm of the eastern side spanning Bat



Island inside Hirakud. "Sitting places have been designed to accommodate 60 to 80 tourists at a time, between 6 am to 6 pm daily, with breakfast and evening high-tea. All amenities are made out of locally collected palm tree, bamboo, and natural stones curated by the local communities adjoining Debrigarh. Visitors are swept off by the view of pristine beach

with crystal clear turquoise water of Hirakud spread vast at front with rugged forested mountains and cliff at the back of island," said a forest official. The official added that tourists can now enjoy summer and winter evenings amidst the calm and shallow waters of the lake while listening to calls of animals echoing through the sanctuary.

"This makes walking through the island not only adventurous but also soul-soothing. All amenities have been created using natural materials giving the Island a vintage look, without any construction. The Island is a 7 sqkm forest patch inside Hirakud lake with a population of around 1,200 Indian Fruit Bats, popularly known as Indian Flying Fox," he added.



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## CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar :** CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, In the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test

center network, we are taking one more step to bring the CFA Program within the reach of aspiring professionals and students in India.” Said Arati Porwal, Director Society Relations at CFA Institute in India.

India has a robust banking, insurance and investment industry It has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market. With such rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for professionals with relevant competencies and high standards of ethics. The CFA Institute works closely with the industry and regulators to support an inclusive and secure financial services industry in India.

## Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

**Bhubaneswar :** Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD Imager cleaning and

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty

products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, “By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations.”

## ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

**Mumbai:** Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of “pre-pandemic” and “post-pandemic” months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

## SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

**Mumbai :** With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country’s largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank’s flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, “We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking.” The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

## Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar :** Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar’s ‘Made of Artistic Flair’ edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region’s signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha’s distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The “Made of Artistic Flair” edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a ‘Jatra’ – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of ‘Made of Pride’, the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city’s A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is ‘Made of Pride’.

## NIST organises NIST Science Talent Search NIST Inspires the Future: Science Talent Search 2023 Promotes Sustainable Ideas

**Berhampur(KCN):** In a remarkable showcase of scientific innovation and youthful brilliance, the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) in Berhampur has successfully concluded the highly-anticipated NIST Science Talent Search 2023 (NSTS-2023). This nationwide competition unfolded from May to October 2023, attracting the enthusiastic participation of school and higher secondary students from all corners of the country. This year's theme,

The eminent panel of judges for the grand finale included illustrious figures from the realm of science and technology, namely Dr. Bijan Das, Ex-Deputy Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, ISRO; Dr. Sunil Kr. Sarangi, FNAE, Ex-Director, NIT Rourkela; Dr. Prasanta K Panigrahi, Director, IISER, Kolkata; and Sri. Prabuddha Ranjan Mohanty, Ex-Chairman, Heavy Water Board, Dept. of Atomic Energy. After careful deliberation, the panel of judges announced the winners, awarding them with

was graced by the presence of Sri. Prabuddha Ranjan Mohanty, Ex-Chairman, Heavy Water Board, Dept. of Atomic Energy, who served as the Chief Guest. The winning teams received their well-deserved cash prizes from the Chief Guest. The significant cash rewards not only acknowledge the young talents' dedication to science but also serve as an encouragement for further research and innovation.

The event culminated with an enlightening visit to the Buddhist monastery at



“Sustainable Innovation,” was thoughtfully chosen to reflect the global demand for eco-friendly solutions in an increasingly complex world. The call for participation was initiated in May 2023, with submissions being accepted until September 11, 2023. A staggering 550 teams registered for this prestigious event through the online portal at [www.nist.edu/talentsearch](http://www.nist.edu/talentsearch). Rigorous screening, involving the careful evaluation of 53 remarkable ideas by an expert panel, led to the selection of these teams. These bright young minds were then offered mentorship by esteemed professors and industry experts. Following this, the shortlisted teams moved to the screening round, where they presented their innovative ideas through video conferencing. Subsequently, 18 teams from various states across India were selected to participate in the grand finale. Here, they had the unique opportunity to showcase their projects and present their ideas before a distinguished jury.

substantial cash prizes for their remarkable achievements. In the Senior category, the coveted first place was secured by Averron Maverick from Vidya Vihar Educational Academy in Bihar, who earned an impressive cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000. The runner-up position was claimed by VIDHA Aziz Public School in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, with a well-deserved cash award of Rs. 50,000. Notably, the third place was clinched by SOS Senior from SOS Village in Guwahati, Assam, earning a commendable cash prize of Rs. 25,000. In the Junior category, the top honours went to Obestress Alerte from DAV Kalinga Nagar in BBSR, Odisha, securing the first place and an enticing cash prize of Rs. 30,000. The second place was earned by Renew Desal from Sarala Birla in Guwahati, Assam, with a cash reward of Rs. 20,000. The third position was claimed by Coder's Spot from DAV Chandrasekharpur in BBSR, Odisha, receiving a noteworthy cash prize of Rs. 10,000. The awards ceremony

Jeerango in Gajapati District, where the students interacted with the elders of the settlement. The purpose was to understand how this community had adapted to the region with minimal resources and how they rebuilt their civilization after migrating from Ladakh. The students gained valuable insights into best practices related to water management, cropping, energy production, marketing, and various skills. The event was inaugurated by founder chairman Dr. Sukant K. Mahapatra through an online mode. Principal In Charge Dr. Bishnukar Nayak delivered the opening address, while HR and Admin Head Er. Sayad Suleman Ali extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries. The event's seamless coordination was overseen by Dr. Sushanta Ku. Sahu, Dr. Subrat Ku. Bhuyan, Dr. Preeti Ranjan Sahu, Mr. Prabhas Raj Panigrahi, Mr. Asutosh Pati, and Mr. Pitambar Sahu.

## NSDL launches “Market ka Eklavya- Express” in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

**Mumbai:** India’s largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched ‘Market ka Eklavya- Express’, an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner’s guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness ‘Market Ka Eklavya - Express’ across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon’ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar

Bharat.”

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I’s – types of Income; Inflation and its impact; types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

## Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha’s State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&T and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, “This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry.



**New Delhi:** Alex Carey scored an unbeaten 98 and shared a 140-run stand with Mitchell Marsh (80) - the highest sixth-wicket partnership in day's play. They were made to wait as portentous rain washed away the first hour of the morning session. But soon enough the sun was with Josh Inglis pushing him, the keeper-bat began solidly, driving Southee down the ground and punching Matt Henry past backward point, for Ben Sears into the attack and New Zealand's fading hopes were reignited once more by the debutant speedster. With his second delivery

**New Delhi:** Alex Carey scored an unbeaten 98 and shared a 140-run stand with Mitchell Marsh (80) - the highest sixth-wicket partnership in a fourth-innings against New Zealand - as Australia chased down 279 to complete a 2-0 series sweep and extend their dominance over Tasman neighbours New Zealand in the format, a lopsided record that now reads just 1 win for the Black Caps in the last 31 years.

Australia went into the final day of the series, four down, on the edge and confronting a rare possibility of losing only a second Test match to their Tasman neighbours in three decades. They had slipped to 34/4 on the third evening and victory was a further 202 runs away at the start of the

day's play. They were made to wait as portentous rain washed away the first hour of the morning session. But soon enough the sun was shining on them, literally and metaphorically. Mitchell Marsh was going to be their big ray of hope having counter-attacked his way to a run-a-ball 29 last night. This morning, he was the beneficiary of some Black Caps benevolence as his fierce cut shot in the second over of the day was put down by Rachin Ravindra at point off the bowling of Tim Southee. His overnight batting partner, Travis Head, wasn't as lucky as a similar shot two balls later led to his downfall. That early dismissal brought Carey to the middle. Under pressure to keep his place in the side

with Josh Inglis pushing him, the keeper-bat began solidly, driving Southee down the ground and punching Matt Henry past backward point for boundaries. It was a feature of Australia's chase that despite the pressure they were subjected to, they maintained a scoring rate in excess of 4 (4.32 at the end).

Carey endured a heart-in-mouth moment when he was ruled out LBW to a nip-backer from Henry but DRS projected the ball to be sliding down leg. Another close shave arrived when he had moved to 37. Scott Kuggeleijn appealed for a caught-behind and got his captain to use a review, which eventually came to nothing. Between those two moments, Carey and Marsh were largely



untroubled and Southee's attempts to rotate his four seamers and Glenn Phillips could not put a lid on the scoring. Marsh got to his half-century with a fierce pull shot and three overs later Carey got a 50 of his own with a pair of boundaries off Ben Sears. By Lunch, the pair had put

on 94 and victory was only 105 runs away. The 43-over-old ball was significantly easier to contend with and the start of the second session's play saw runs arrive in a glut. Marsh cut Southee for a pair of boundaries, forcing the captain to turn to his pace ace for a

breakthrough. As it turned out, Matt Henry's first over back cost New Zealand 16 runs with Carey tickling a legside delivery for four before Marsh unveiled one of his patented pulls over deep square-leg for a six. With the target down to 59, Southee summoned

Ben Sears into the attack and New Zealand's fading hopes were reignited once more by the debutant speedster. With his second delivery, he broke the partnership with a pacy, full ball that Marsh missed while attempting a flick. The very next ball, Mitchell Starc chopped a simple catch down mid-wicket's throat to leave Australia seven down.

Just like that, the clouds rolled in, the flood lights were turned on and the Hagley Oval crowd found its voice. But in Cummins, Australia had a No.9 with proven pedigree in such nip and tuck situations. Only last year, in the Edgbaston Ashes Test, the Australian skipper had seen his side over the line in a similarly tense chase. That chase in Birmingham was

Australia's first successful chase of 279 or more in over 12 years. And Cummins brought all his experience to the fore once he survived the hat-trick ball, which he edged just past second slip for four.

Carey continued to play his shots, a lap off Sears and a pair of swept boundaries off Phillips took Australia close. He was left two short of a century with Australia needing an identical number of runs when the strike turned over. Cummins punched the ball square off the wicket for a boundary to polish off an excellent chase.

Brief scores: New Zealand 162 & 372 lost to Australia 256 & 281/7 (Alex Carey 98\*, Mitchell Marsh 80, Pat Cummins 32\*; Ben Sears 4-90) by three wickets.

## Rashid set to return to competitive cricket against Ireland

**New Delhi:** Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan is set to return to competitive cricket for the three-match T20I series against Ireland. The legspinning all-rounder has been out of action, having undergone back surgery, since the 50-over World Cup in November last year. Ireland won the one-off Test match while Afghanistan are leading the ongoing three-match ODI series 1-0. The first game was won by Ireland while the second match was washed out. Following the last ODI of the series on March 12, Afghanistan will take on Ireland in three T20Is with the games scheduled on March 15, 17 and 18 in Sharjah. "The plan is to represent the country in the upcoming series (T20 against Afghanistan) and the training has been underway and today was



the second day and thankfully it went well and I hope that the following few days will also be well so that I can wear the national jersey again and continue to do well for my country," Rashid was quoted in a VDO interview posted by Afghanistan Cricket Board on Saturday (March 9). Rashid admitted that the last three months were tough for him as he was undergoing a rehabilitation process,

which went slower than expected following the surgery.

"The last three months were difficult because I had surgery. I had been suffering from a back injury for the last seven to eight months and the doctor had asked me to have surgery even before the World Cup but I decided to play the World Cup and have surgery afterwards because it was such an important event for us but Alhamdulillah I am

back on the field and feeling well now and now my focus is on returning to the field and bringing joy and success to the nation.

"It was indeed very tough because undergoing surgery and then going through the recovery process is not easy because you need to focus on everything and you need to take care of your rehab and your training as it is a very slow process because you will gradually start walking first and then the gym workouts so those are very tough days.

"They are (tough) because it is more than just a surgery as it is returning to the field and being the same person you were when you left and it was a difficult period," he added.

"The focus is always playing good cricket and doing well and we have played enough against

Ireland and we hope to do well and perform well because it's a great preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup and so the focus is on making the most out of it and preparing well for that event." The next two months are very crucial for us we don't have more games to play after these three games against Ireland and the focus will be to learn more from these games and the players can work hard during the last two to three months before the World Cup," he said adding that IPL will also help them prepare for the global event.

"The good thing is most of our players will be playing IPL and it will be good preparation for the World Cup and we will also keep in touch with those who are not there (in the IPL) to continue working hard in this period," he concluded.

**New Delhi:** While Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp gushed about Sunday's breathless 1-1 Premier League draw with Manchester City, calling it the best his squad has ever played against the reigning champions, he was adamant his team were robbed of a penalty. Alexis Mac Allister fired home a second-half penalty as Liverpool claimed a point against City at Anfield that left Arsenal top of the table in the tight title race. Liverpool are second on goal difference, while City are third with a point separating the top three teams. But just before the final whistle Liverpool were screaming for a penalty to no avail when Jeremy Doku challenged Mac Allister in the box, with his boot catching the Argentine in the chest. "Hits him on the chest,"



Klopp told reporters. "Does he touch the ball before? Yes. Does that make any difference, on any position on the pitch, if your leg is that high? You can kick the ball before, and after that the foot is here (Klopp points to his chest) and you go off." The officials disagreed and the VAR did not send the referee to have a second look after checking the decision.

"Why would the guy in the VAR studio think 'Ah

that's not clear and obvious"? What must you have had for lunch if you think that's not clear and obvious?" The manager insisted, however, he was already over the controversial moment, even if it comes back to bite Liverpool in the league title race. "I have to speak so often about it, and I really don't care, I'm already over it, it's absolutely fine. We'd love to get it, yeah, but nothing that I say -- at least I learned that -- will change that.

# Ghosh fifty in vain as DC clinch thriller to book playoff spot

**New Delhi:** Richa Ghosh's 29-ball 51 followed a four-wicket haul from Shreyanka Patil but both efforts went in vain as Delhi Capitals prevailed in a close finish against Royal Challengers Bangalore to book their spot in the playoffs, on Sunday (March 10). Jemimah Rodrigues' 36-ball 58 and Alice Capsey's 48 off 32 helped the Capitals post 181/5 despite a good finish with the ball from Patil. RCB's overseas trio of Ellyse Perry, Sophie Molineux and Sophie Devine came up with useful contributions in the chase but the balance was still tilted towards the Capitals. Ghosh's terrific knock brought it down to 2 off the final ball but she couldn't take her team over the line, leaving RCB precariously placed

on the points table. With Sabbhineni Meghana left out and Sophie Devine assigned the middle-order role, it was a new opening pair in the form of Smriti Mandhana and Molineux. Things looked promising with Molineux striking an elegant drive off Marizanne Kapp for a four and Mandhana playing a backfoot punch off Capsey for a boundary. But the partnership was short-lived as the RCB captain missed a flick to be trapped in front by Capsey for 5. An economical over from Kapp followed, with RCB getting only 13 in the first three. Ellyse Perry provided the much-needed thrust to the chase as she started finding the boundaries and even pulled Jess Jonassen for a six, helping RCB to 42/

1 at the end of the powerplay. Molineux was struggling a bit compared to Perry, getting only 8 off her first 13 deliveries before pulling one off Arundhati Reddy for a four. Perry, meanwhile, ensured the required rate did not grow too big, hitting two successive fours off Jonassen to extend the partnership past fifty in the ninth over. Molineux finally upped the ante, scoring two fours off Titas Sadhu in her opening over to take RCB to 81/1 at the halfway stage. DC missed their chances, with Shafali missing a direct hit to give Molineux a reprieve while Capsey put down a simple catch in Radha Yadav's over to give Perry a lucky break. The second wicket association moved to 80 when Perry was run out one short of a half-



century. RCB had another setback as Molineux fell to Arundhati on 33, slicing a catch to sweeper cover. Taniya Bhatia couldn't bring down the bails when Devine was short of the crease after being sent back by Ghosh. She capitalised on the miss, hitting two sixes and a

four off Radha to take RCB to 125/3 after 15. Needing 57 off the last five overs, Ghosh took on Arundhati for a four and a six in the 16th. But a tight over from Shikha Pandey followed, with only five coming off it, and the pressure increased on RCB when Devine pulled a Kapp delivery straight

to deep backward square leg. Wareham and Ghosh did well to ensure the over turned out productive for RCB, with both batters striking a four each. With 28 needed off 12, Ghosh and Wareham hit a boundary each off Pandey but the Australia all-rounder fell in the same over to a low full toss.

leaving RCB needing 17 off the last over. Ghosh started the over with a straight six off Jonassen but the next was a dot, followed by the dismissal of Disha Kasat who was run out without facing a ball. It came down to 8 off 2 when Ghosh cleared the midwicket boundary for a six that took her to a 28-ball fifty and the equation to 2 off the last ball. But she could only hit the last ball to point and was caught short of the crease attempting a single as the Capitals clinched a thriller to move back to the top of the table.

It was a powerful start from the Capitals thanks to their openers who struck seven fours and a six between them in the powerplay. RCB's bowlers were actually tidy in the first three overs, with only 16

coming off them, which included two fours for Shafali Verma. The momentum-shifting overcame in the fourth when Meg Lanning got into the action, striking four fours off Renuka Singh who gave away 20. Despite Sophie Molineux bowling another quiet over, debutant Shradha Pokharkar, who was one of three inclusions in the eleven for RCB, ended up being hit for a six wide of long-off and then a loft over mid-off by Shafali as the Capitals moved to 53, with RCB losing a review during this carnage. The opening partnership came to an end in the seventh over when Asha Sobhana accounted for Shafali in her first over, with the batter slicing a catch to point attempting a wild swing at the ball.